

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

IO-13 OIC-02 INT-05 GSA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-01 INR-07 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 FEA-01 XMB-02 /131 W

-----252222Z 113252 /46

O 252150Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4624

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

OECD PARIS PRIORITY UNN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 328

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FOR: EB/ISM - MR. LENAHA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, BL

SUBJ: TIN--BOLIVIA'S INTENTIONS AT 5TH

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SESSION INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL

REF: A) STATE 59649, B) LONDON 3800 C) LONDON 4952

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS MET WITH GOB DIRECTOR OF PLANNING IN
MINISTRY OF MINING ROLANDO JORDON, MARCH 25. JORDAN
SAID THAT THE GOB'S COMMITTEE ON FIFTH ITA HAD REVIEWED

THE REPORT AND ANNEXES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PRICES AND HAD APPROVED THEM IN PRINCIPLE, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ECONOMIC AND PRICE REVIEW PANEL. HE SAID THE GOB'S MAIN CONCERN AT THE UPCOMING LONDON MEETING WOULD BE THE ATTITUDE OF THE OTHER ITA MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY THE CONSUMERS, TOWARDS THE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS WERE NOT UNANIMOUS. IF THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES SEEM PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN GOOD FAITH IN A FAIR AND OBJECTIVE PRICE REVIEW SYSTEM, THEN BOLIVIA IN THE END WOULD CERTAINLY RATIFY THE FIFTH ITA. HE IMPLIED, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT IF THERE IS AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFRONTATION, AS THERE HAS BEEN AT TIMES IN THE PAST (IN BOLIVIA'S VIEW) THEN THE GOB MIGHT FOLLOW A NEGOTIATING STRATEGY OF WAITING UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE BEFORE INDICATING WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD RATIFY. DURING THE CONVERSATION, JORDAN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT IS IN BOLIVIA'S INTEREST TO REMAIN IN THE ITA AND HE RECOGNIZED THE MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE OF THE USG RECENTLY, AS REFLECTED IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS SUPPORTING COMMODITY AGREEMENTS AND ON POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY BUFFER STOCKS.

2. HE SAID HIS PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT ANNEX THREE OF THE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH HE SAID DESCRIBES THE SYSTEM TO BE USED FOR REVIEW OF PRICES, IS DEFICIENT IN NOT EXPLAINING ADEQUATELY HOW THE VARIABLES TO BE USED, (I.E. MARKET DEMAND, COSTS, WORLD INFLATION, ETC.) WOULD BE ANALYZED AND DECISIONS ARRIVED AT.

3. JORDAN SAID CARLOS ITURRALDE WOULD BE ATTENDING THE LONDON MEETING SCHEDULED TO START MARCH 29.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE SEE TWO ITEMS OF BASIC IMPORTANCE IN JORDAN'S COMMENTS: FIRST, THE GOB ACCEPTS THE WORKING GROUP'S PROPOSALS IN PRINCIPLE AS A BASIS FOR A WORKABLE PRICE REVIEW SYSTEM; SECONDLY, THE GOB'S INTEREST IS IN PRESERVING THE FIFTH ITA AND IT WILL PROBABLY ULTIMATELY RATIFY THE AGREEMENT IF IT BELIEVES THE CONSUMING MEMBERS ARE SERIOUS ABOUT MAKING A PRICE SYSTEM WORK. HOWEVER, WE DOUBT THAT THE

GOB WILL BE PREPARED TO MAKE A FINAL COMMITMENT
ON RATIFICATION AT THE UPCOMING MEETING. WHILE
GOB OFFICIALS SEEM PLEASED AT THE TREND
IN NEGOTIATIONS, WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE KIND
OF BUREAUCRATIC ACTIVITY HERE WHICH WOULD
PRESAGE A FINAL DECISION ON RATIFICATION.
WE SUSPECT THAT THE GOB PARTICIPANTS WILL
TEST TO THE POINTS OF VIEW OF OTHER MEMBERS,
PUSH FOR A MORE SPECIFIC DEFINITION OF HOW
THE PRICE ANALYSIS WILL WORK AND SUGGEST A
LATER MEETING AFTER MEMBERS HAVE HAD TIME
TO REVIEW THE SITUATION.
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